

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A bracket for absorbing energy comprising:

an anchor plate;

a locking ridge extending from the anchor plate at a non-perpendicular angle to the anchor plate;

an extension arm continuous with and extending from the anchor plate; and

a support foot linked to the extension arm by a flex region and positioned adjacent to the anchor plate, wherein the bracket is an incompletely tubular structure having an asymmetrical cross-section, and wherein the support foot is configured to translate upon impact to contact the ~~anchor plate~~ locking ridge, the bracket being further configured to deform to absorb impact energy.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot is separated from ~~positioned adjacent to the anchor plate~~ by a gap ~~and substantially parallel to the direction of an anticipated impact.~~

Claim 3 (original): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises a translating arm extending from the flex region, and a foot region extending from a terminal end of the translating arm such that it is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 3, wherein the ~~support foot~~ region is separated from ~~positioned adjacent to the anchor plate and substantially parallel to the direction of an anticipated impact~~ by a gap.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The bracket of claim 5, wherein the foot region of the support foot is positioned substantially perpendicular to the anchor plate.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The bracket of claim 3, wherein the foot region of the support foot is generally rounded in shape.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises a translating arm extending from the flex region and a foot region extending from a terminal end of the translating arm such that it is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate, the support foot further comprising an intermediate foot projecting from the translating arm.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The bracket of claim 8, wherein the intermediate foot comprises a fold of the translating arm.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The bracket of claim 9, wherein the intermediate foot abuts the anchor plate.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The bracket of claim 9, wherein the intermediate foot abuts an attachment projecting from the anchor plate.

Claim 12 (original): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the anchor plate, extension arm, flex region, and support foot of the bracket have a uniform thickness.

Claim 13 (original): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket is constructed of aluminum.

Claim 14 (original): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket is constructed of steel.

Claim 15 (original): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket is constructed of plastic.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the anchor plate comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the bracket to a vehicle structure ~~such as a vehicular pillar~~.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the bracket to a vehicle structure ~~such as a vehicular trim panel~~.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An energy absorbing pillar structure for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

an anchor plate;

an extension arm continuous with and extending from the anchor plate, wherein the extension arm is straight; and

a support foot linked to the extension arm by a flex region and comprising a translating arm, the translating arm extending from the ~~translating extension~~ arm and a foot region extending from a terminal end of the translating arm at a non-perpendicular angle to the translating arm, the support foot being configured to translate upon impact to contact the anchor plate, the energy absorbing pillar structure having a uniform thickness and being further configured to deform to absorb impact energy.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the ~~support foot region~~ region is separated from ~~positioned adjacent to~~ the anchor plate ~~and substantially parallel to the direction of an anticipated impact by a gap~~.

Claim 20 (original): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the anchor plate further includes a locking ridge for engaging the support foot.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 20, wherein the foot region of the support foot is positioned substantially perpendicular to the anchor plate.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the foot region of the support foot is generally rounded in shape.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the support foot further comprises an intermediate foot.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 23, wherein the intermediate foot abuts the anchor plate.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 23, wherein the intermediate foot abuts an attachment projecting from the anchor plate.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 23, wherein the intermediate foot comprises a fold of the translating arm.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 26, wherein the intermediate foot abuts the anchor plate.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 26, wherein the intermediate foot abuts an attachment projecting from the anchor plate.

Claim 29 (original): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the anchor plate comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the energy absorbing pillar structure to a vehicle.

Claim 30 (original): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 29, wherein the support foot comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the energy absorbing pillar structure to a vehicular trim panel.

Claim 31 (original): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the bracket is constructed of aluminum.

Claim 32 (original): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the bracket is constructed of steel.

Claim 33 (original): The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the bracket is constructed of plastic.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): An energy absorbing pillar structure comprising:

- an anchor plate for securing the pillar structure to a vehicle;
- an extension arm projecting outwardly from the anchor plate;
- a flex region continuous with the extension arm;
- a translating arm extending from the flex region; and
- a support foot at the terminal end of the translating arm, the support foot being configured to translate and contact the anchor plate when the pillar structure is contacted, the energy absorbing pillar structure having uniform width and being configured to deform to absorb impact energy.